

GOVERNOR GRETCHEN WHITMER

SUPPORTING MICHIGAN'S KIDS AND SCHOOLS



From her first day in office, Governor Whitmer has worked to expand opportunities and improve outcomes for Michigan's children. Under Governor Whitmer's leadership, our schools are focused on keeping our children safe and getting students back on track academically, physically, and mentally. Governor Whitmer made the largest education investment in state history—without raising taxes—to close the funding gap between schools in Michigan, expand access to preschool program for 22,000 more 4-year-olds, and distribute resources to expand mental health supports for our kids. These historic investments ensure our schools have the funds to help each and every Michigander reach their full potential. The Governor also believes that every Michigander deserves a path to a high wage job, and she is committed to making college degrees and skill certificates available and affordable for more residents. In the past year alone, over 150,000 Michiganders applied for scholarships through Michigan Reconnect and Futures for Frontliners, two programs she created to put people on tuition-free paths to better-paying jobs.

MAKING HISTORIC INVESTMENTS IN SCHOOLS

- Made the largest investment in schools in state history—without raising taxes.
 - Closed the funding gap between schools, ensuring every school district has the same baseline funding: \$8,700 per student.
 - Increased funding per student, per year in Benton Harbor by \$1,499, Detroit by \$1,574, Flint by \$2,074, Kalamazoo by \$1,229, and Lansing by \$1,449.
 - Eliminated waiting lists for the Great Start Readiness Program, ensuring every eligible four-year-old can attend high-quality preschool.
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 - Expanded access to mental health professionals, including school counselors and psychologists, to support students' comprehensive recovery.
- Prioritized equity in state funding by dedicating more state resources to students with the highest needs, including more funding for at-risk, English language learners, and special education in the FY 20, 21, and 22 budgets.
- Directed \$5.8 billion in federal emergency funds to ensure students had the supports and services they needed during the pandemic and our recovery
- Tripled the number of literacy coaches serving in Michigan schools in the Governor's first year in office.
- Thanked educators for all they do for our children by providing premium pay through the MI Classroom Heroes grant program.

A COMPREHENSIVE STUDENT RECOVERY

- Led public schools through the most challenging year in our state's history while prioritizing student learning, health, and safety:
 - Established the Return to Learn Advisory Council.
 - Published the MI Safe Schools Roadmap providing guidance for safe operations during the 2020-2021 school year.
 - Signed bipartisan Return to Learn legislation to provide schools more flexibility and shore up their financials during the 2020-2021 school year.
 - Prioritized educators as essential workers for vaccinations.
- Established the cross-sector Student Recovery Advisory Council to develop a roadmap to support students' academic, physical, and mental recovery.
 - Published the Mi Blueprint for Comprehensive Student Recovery to support local education leaders in developing and implementing a multi-year, evidence-based, equity-driven recovery plan.



"Every child in this state has a birthright to a phenomenal public education and a path to a high wage job. I have made historic investments in our public schools without raising taxes to give every kid in every community an opportunity to pursue their potential. We will continue finding ways to facilitate student recovery from the pandemic and put our kids on track to graduate and pursue postsecondary education, skills training, or good-paying jobs."

- Governor Gretchen Whitmer

EXPANDING ACCESS TO EDUCATION AND SKILLS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

- Set the Sixty by 30 Goal to have at least 60% of Michiganders earn a degree or skill certificate by 2030 and created the Office of Sixty by 30 to lead the state's efforts.
- Established and fully funded programs to provide hundreds of thousands of Michiganders tuition-free higher education or skills training that leads to a high-skill, good-paying job.
 - Michigan Reconnect, a program that pays tuition of Michiganders 25 and up to pursue an associate degree or earn a skills certificate in high-demand careers.
 - Futures for Frontliners, providing a tuition-free path to postsecondary education or skills training for Michiganders who served on the frontlines of the pandemic.
- Partnered with colleges to improve college completion rates for students enrolled in Reconnect and Futures—and all students.